# DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL ARMS

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MONWEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP DAY • MAY 22, 1967

# Armorial Bearings of Canada

The Arms or Armorial Bearings of Canada, as depicted here, can also be studied on the reverse of a 50-cent Canadian coin minted prior to 1967 or on the 20-dollar gold piece of 1967. Visitors to the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa may see them on the west face of the altar.

The Imperial Crown surmounts the whole. On the shield are displayed the Royal Arms, the emblems of England, Scotland, Ireland, and differenced in the fourth quarter by the Arms of France. Mounted on a Royal helmet is the crest, a lion with a red maple leaf in its upright forepaw. A lion bearing a Union Jack and a unicorn bearing the ancient banner of France are the supporters. The motto, A mari usque ad mare, is part of the Latin version of Psalm 72: verse 8.

Originally, in 1868, a design for the Great Seal of Canada was drawn up, with the arms of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick placed quarterly on a plain shield. Although never used for the Great Seal, the design served as an emblem on flags and memorial tablets. As five more provinces were added, the device became cluttered and heraldically quite unsuitable. The present arms date from a Royal proclamation of King George V, November 21, 1921. The accepted design in correct colours dates from January 24, 1923, and meets heraldic requirements. It indicates, moreover, that the Royal Realm of Canada is more important than the sum of its parts. From 1924 on, the new arms replaced the old.

# PREFACE AND TEACHER'S NOTES

The theme of this brochure is the history to be discovered in the coats-of-arms of Canada, the ten provinces, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Many of the emblems are symbolic in a general way of certain geographical, historical, or economic aspects of the provinces, and pupils can discover their significance without reference to the precise but mediaeval terms of heraldry. Even in these notes there are certain interpretations offered tentatively and subject to further discussion based on investigations by pupils. This booklet should serve to indicate the fascination some people find in the study of flags and armorial bearings.

This collection of Dominion and Provincial Arms is part of a series of teaching aids sent to you by the Department of Education. The armorial bearings depicted here should be studied along with the portfolio of "Historical Flags of Canada" and the brochures, "Six Flags Over Ontario" and "Illustrations of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario." The text accompanying portfolios and brochures can be supplemented by articles on flags in the encyclopaedias in the school libraries. The occasion is also a suitable one for using the portfolio of "The Fathers of Confederation" and the long-playing record that complements it, and for presenting some of the projects undertaken during the course of your studies in local history and local government.

Teachers are once again reminded and encouraged to set aside whatever time is necessary for the study of this material, in all grades, by pupils working individually or in committee. Something of the developing methods of history, geography, and social studies can be seen in the changed nature of the program advocated for the 24th of May. In 1899, Empire Day was to be celebrated by bringing into the school local orators who needed to be reminded of the aim of the program; the Minister, in his message, referred to the objectives. Today, the occasion can properly be observed by a presentation of the work of pupils, who from their own investigations and discussions may better appreciate and remember aspects of our heritage.

Much of the geography, history, and government of Ontario as well as of Canada may be reviewed by the use of illustrative material now available in the classrooms. The range of inquiry seems unlimited: the floral emblems and characteristic trees of the provinces; birds and animals; animals on the arms and crests of the provincial coats-of-arms; the historical significance of many emblems; the origin of the names of the provinces; the story behind the formation and boundaries of each province and the date of entry into Confederation; the exemplification of the motto "From sea to sea" in provincial arms; the translation of each motto; the terminology of heraldry; the meaning of the word, Commonwealth.

The study of government will be supported by Curriculum Division Bulletin #7. Civics should be approached by direct personal experience for the pupils through visits, interviews, and talks by magistrates, judges, councillors, wardens, and members of parliament.

More difficult at present is the provision of suitable material about the Commonwealth. The Statute of Westminster, 1931, which instituted the Commonwealth, is available in reference books. Teachers should ask librarians to help pupils search out material for talks and essays on the countries that belong to the Commonwealth.

It may be possible, another year, for the Department to continue this series of booklets. In the meantime, teachers should correct mistaken impressions as to the nature and purposes of the Commonwealth. The concept of this organization is so far in advance of the standards found today that there is great danger in a lack of comprehension about the meaning of the Commonwealth, especially when it is overshadowed by powerful military alliances and outbreaks of warfare.

John. W. Holmes, Director-General of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, said: "I think the greatest threat to (the Commonwealth's) survival lies in the fact that it is too progressive for 20th century morals. Its greatest virtue in the world is that it is a multi-racial and inter-continental association and its mission is to do what it can to prevent people of different races and continents from falling apart."

# ORIGIN OF PROVINCIAL CRESTS

## NEWFOUNDLAND

The youngest province has the oldest Arms, which were granted on January 1, 1637 by Royal Letters Patent. They are described as "Gules a cross Argent, in the first and fourth quarters a Lion passant Guardant crowned Or; in the second and third quarters a Unicorn passant Argent, armed, maned and unguled of the third, and gorged with a crown, thereto a chain affixed passing between the forelegs and reflected over his back also Or."

## NEW BRUNSWICK

The ground colour of the shield is gold, and on this is an ancient galley, or lymphad as it is known in heraldry, with oars in the water as being in action. The galley alludes to the shipbuilding industry of the province's early days, to the sea itself and the livelihoods earned on it. On the chief is a gold lion of England on a red ground, indicating the sovereignty of the King, George I, and referring also to the Arms of the Duchy of Brunswick.

## NOVA SCOTIA

The provincial flag of Nova Scotia is the oldest flag in Canada, dating from the Charter of New Scotland granted in 1621 by James I. The Arms are a blue St. Andrew's Cross on a silver shield, charged with the red lion of Scotland on a shield of gold. The presence of the symbol of King James I has historical significance for he was also James VI of Scotland. He agreed to the proposals of Sir William Alexander for the colonization of Acadia, which had been captured from the French in 1613.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Named after Prince Edward Augustus, father of Queen Victoria, the Island Province has as its Arms a silver shield on which are, in their natural colours, a large oak tree sheltering three oak saplings. On the chief is the gold lion of England on a red ground.

The story is that King George III specified the emblem, a large oak tree with acorns ready to drop, protecting a smaller tree branching into three parts to symbolize the three counties of Kings, Queens, and Princes. In 1905, by Royal Warrant on May 30, the three-trunked oak was changed to three distinctive saplings.

## ONTARIO

The Arms were granted to the Province by Queen Victoria by Royal Warrant, May 26, 1868.

On a shield of green, a Sprig of three leaves of Maple slipped Or, indicates that the leaves, each with a stalk, are joined, and their tincture is the gold of autumn. The chief holds the red Cross of St. George on a silver ground. While the Cross of St. George symbolizes the national origin of many citizens, the maple leaves represent all who live in Ontario.

There is an heraldic description of the Arms in "Illustrations of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario" for May 24, 1965.

## QUEBEC

The three gold Fleurs de Lis of Ancient France, placed on a blue ground, are perpetuated for Quebec in the upper third of the shield. On the middle third is a gold lion, like that in the Royal Arms. Below are three maple leaves, with stalks joined as in the Arms of Ontario, but green on a golden ground. The similar form of leaves indicates the connection of Upper and Lower Canada.

The lily, the accepted emblem of France and part of the Arms of Quebec, is one of the most ancient emblems, being associated with Clovis, King of France in the Sixth Century.

## MANITOBA

By Royal Warrant of May 10, 1905, the Arms formerly agreed upon were officially granted: Vert, on a rock a buffalo, statant, proper. On a chief Argent, the Cross of St. George.

The Arms of Manitoba, which entered Confederation in 1870, are nearly one hundred years old. The field of green represents the virgin soil of the western part of the Province. The prairie bison, commonly called the buffalo, and the rock are in natural colours, brown and dark grey.

## SASKATCHEWAN

Named after the mighty river that flows across the prairie, the Province was given its Arms by Royal Warrant on August 26, 1906.

The chief has the lion of England with colours reversed, a red lion on a gold ground, presumably so that the colours would not clash with the shield with its field of green on which three golden sheaves of grain are arranged in a horizontal row. The green indicates the verdure of the prairie.

## ALBERTA

The Province was named for a daughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Louise Alberta who was named for her father, Albert, Prince Consort.

The chief has the Cross of St. George, red on a silver ground. In the foreground of the shield is a field of golden grain, standing unreaped. As the perspective lengthens, the prairies stretch in native hues to the green foothills of the middle distance. Beyond are the snow-capped peaks of the Rockies against the blue sky.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia became a province in 1871. Its Arms were granted on March 31, 1906. In the chief is the Union Jack, territorial sign of the Sovereign. At the intersection of the crosses is a gold crown with a fillet from which rise triangular plates of gold. This "Antique Crown Or" alludes to the Province's early history as a Crown Colony.

The base of the shield shows a gold demi sun. The ground is silver representing the sea and three blue bars, wavy, across the shield, emphasize that the Province is Canada's western boundary.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Arms were approved by Her Majesty the Queen in February, 1956. The heraldic description follows: "Per bend wavy Gules and Vert Billety Or in sinister Chief the Mask of an arctic Fox Argent on a Chief indented also Argent a Barrulet wavy Azure."

The horizontal wavy line represents the famous Northwest Passage through the ice fields. The gold lozenges on green represent the minerals and the white fox's face symbolizes the fur trade. The wavy diagonal line denotes the timber line between forest and tundra.

## YUKON TERRITORY

The Arms were approved by Her Majesty the Queen in February, 1956. This is the heraldic description: "Azure on a pallet wavy Argent a like pallet of the field issuant from the base two piles reversed Gules edged also Argent each charged with two Besants in pale on a Chief Argent a Cross Gules surmounted of a Roundel Vair."

Vair is the symbol for fur, at the centre of the St. George's Cross. The gold circles represent the minerals in the mountains. The wavy vertical stripes denote the Yukon River.

Ontario Department of Education

# THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The observance of Commonwealth and Citizenship Day has a special significance for us in this Centennial Year.

The importance of teaching the geography, history, civics and government of Canada cannot be over-emphasized. Once again I urge teachers to take time for such studies. To support the work of the classroom, the Department of Education is continuing to provide useful and colourful teaching aids. Among the Centennial projects already sent to you are portfolios of the "Fathers of Confederation" and the "Historical Flags of Canada;" others will be forthcoming. Supplementing all this are the Commonwealth and Citizenship Day booklets for 1965, 1966 and 1967.

When "Empire Day" was first observed in Ontario on May 23, 1899, it was set apart for "The study of the history of Canada in its relation to the British Empire and for such other exercises as might tend to increase the interest of the pupils in the history of their own country . . . The aim of the teacher in all his references to Canada and the Empire should be to make Canadian patriotism intelligent, comprehensive, and strong."

Now that the Empire has been replaced by the potentially more significant Commonwealth, a similar purpose remains: the development of a strong and intelligent patriotism extending beyond the love of one's country into a comprehensive involvement in the welfare of others.

The modern Commonwealth is by no means either a relic of imperialism or a British creation. Consisting of republics and monarchies, it has been created to a considerable extent according to a pattern advocated by Canada. It presents us with many opportunities for exerting our influence for good in the world. Mr. Arnold Smith, the Canadian who is Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, said recently: "To be cynical about the Commonwealth is to be cynical about the future of humanity."

May 1967

William Davis

WILLIAM G. DAVIS
*Minister of Education*

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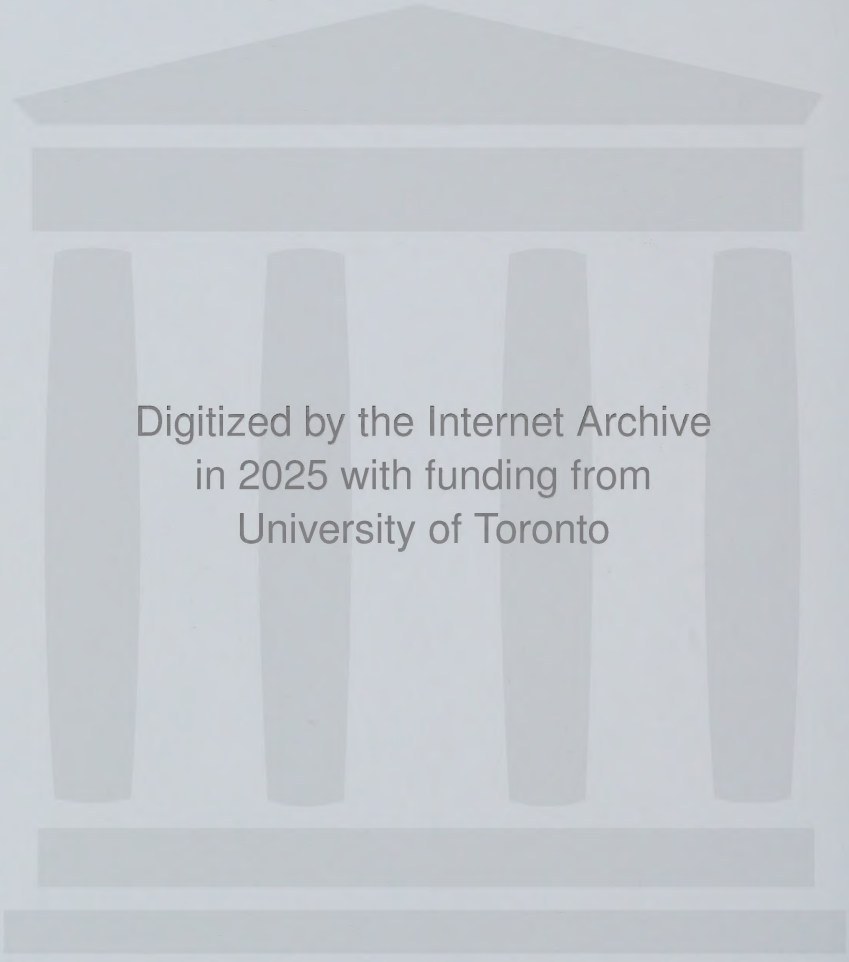
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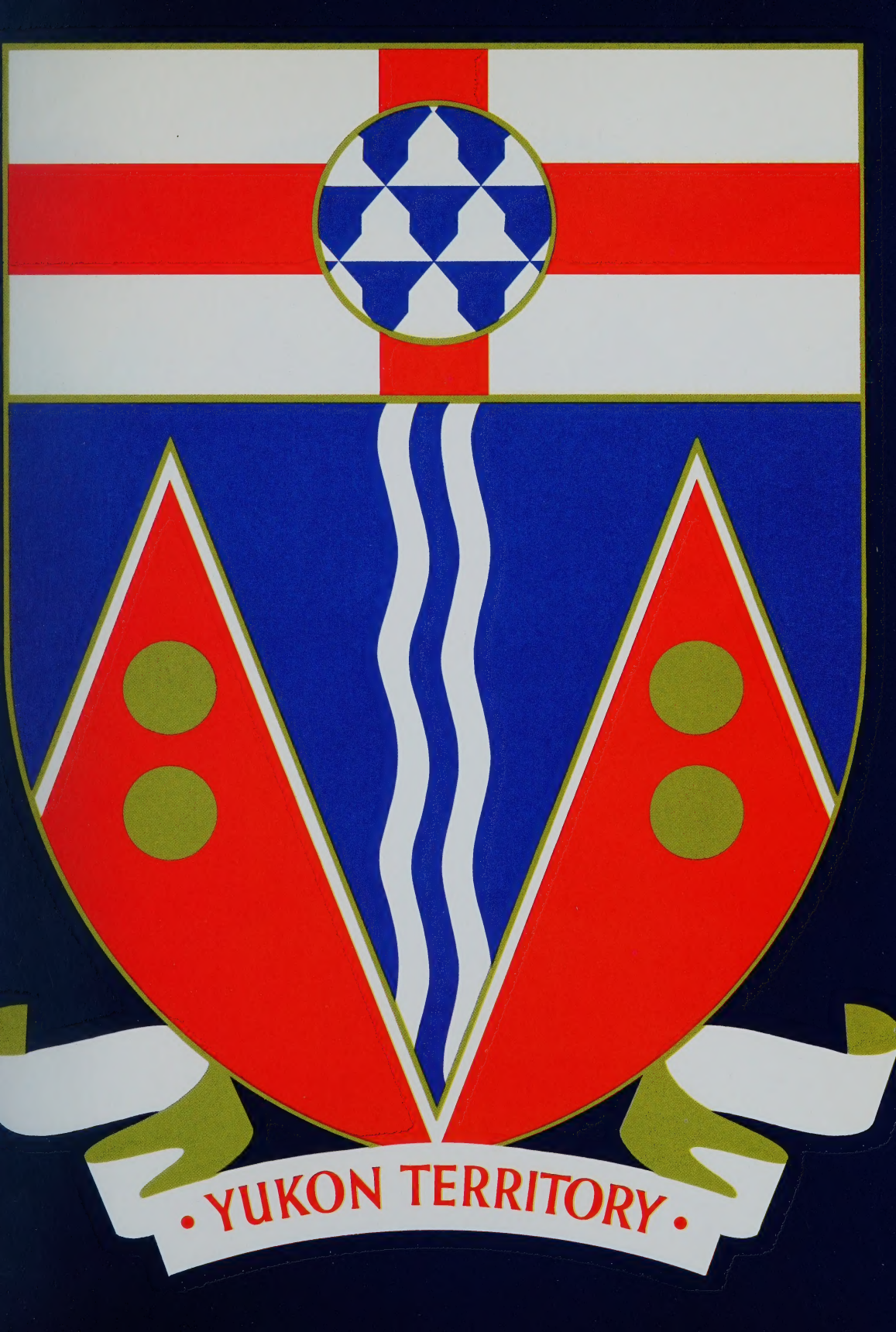
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